



September 26, 2014

A Highlight of Departmental Activities

The Weekly Report showcases the activities and accomplishments of the many Departments within Rutherford County Government. Click on the Directory list, department headings, icons and text in blue to be linked to more information.

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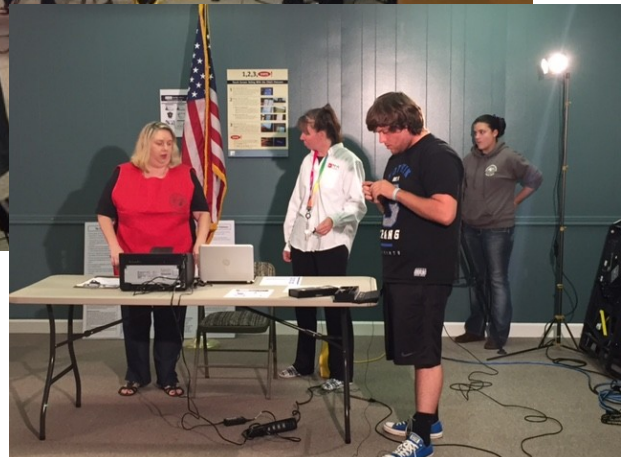
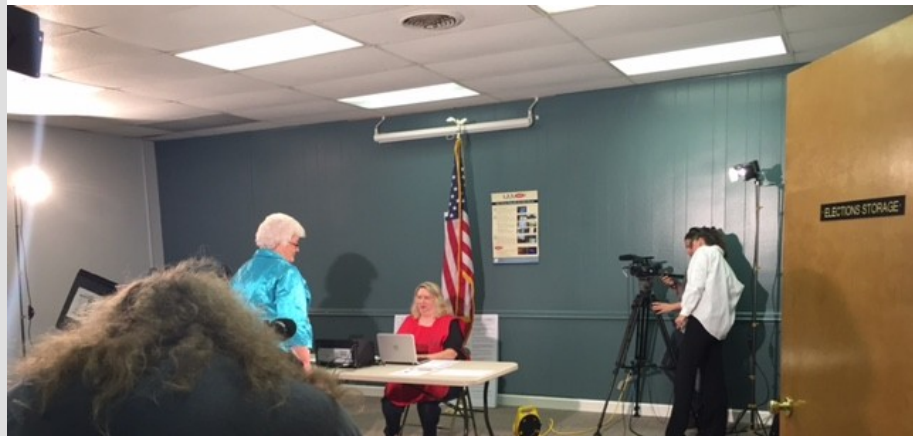
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Special Announcements

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Board of Elections

The Board of Elections staff completed testing on the voting equipment and uploaded test files to the state software to test the election night system. We are very busy contacting our poll workers to confirm they will be working in November. On Tuesday and Thursday this week, we worked with a Broadcasting and Production Technology class from Isothermal on recording videos to use for our poll worker training sessions. This is a great project for the students to gain experience and also gives our office an effective teaching tool.



Building Inspections

Building Inspections has continued to see an increase in permit and inspection activity. We have issued 61 permits totaling \$6,786 in fees and our inspectors have conducted 349 inspections. The Director has continued working with the designer and several other department heads on the Development Services / Board of Elections relocation. Our department has also continued working with the developers of Tryon Equestrian Facility on their project for plan reviews and inspections. We continue the bi-annual school inspections, inspections at the Colfax Free Fair, and the final inspection and Certificate of Completion for the county's first solar farm.

Clerk to the Board

On Monday, September 22, Chairman Eckler had a NC 9 Small Area Planning Meeting. Commissioner Owens had a meeting with Advantage West and officials at Isothermal Community College.

Commissioners attended the United Way Kick-off Luncheon on Thursday at Florence Baptist Church. The Clerk to the Board participated in a webinar put on by Municipal Code which houses the County Commissioners' minutes and the County Ordinances on the internet. The site is being upgraded. Later in the day staff and Commissioners attended the special Tourism Development Authority event at Isothermal Community College. Mr. Mark Bellissimo of the Tryon Equestrian Center spoke to the large crowd present.

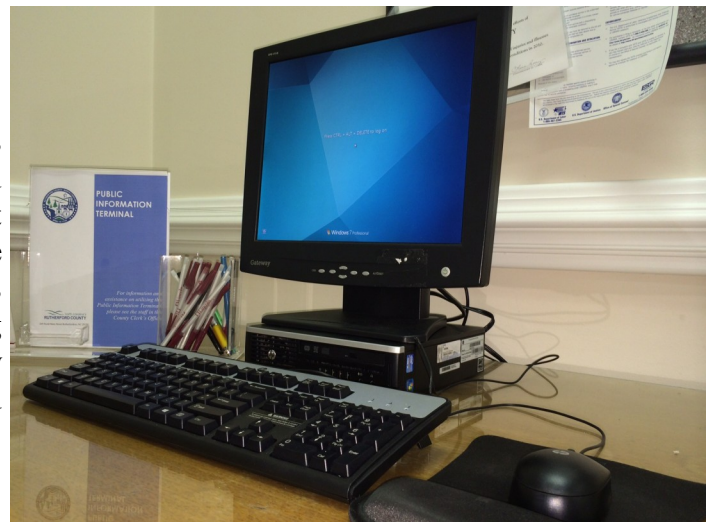
On Friday, Chairman Eckler attended a meeting with the Sheriff's Department, staff, and members of several organizations that are involved in animal welfare.

County Manager

The County Manager held his weekly meetings with the department heads from Solid Waste, Public Works and Planning, Economic Development, Finance and the County Attorney. On Tuesday, he met with Detention and Sheriff's Office staff and then the County Commissioners throughout the day. Wednesday led with administrative tasks and interoffice meetings. Thursday was a very busy day for the County Manager who began the day meeting with Commissioner Richard, then participating in a meeting with Animal Control staff, followed by attending the United Way Kick-Off Luncheon and then wrapping up the afternoon at the TDA's special event presented at Isothermal Community College. Friday held another meeting with Animal Control staff, Cooperative Extension staff and Attorney Miller.

*New Public Information Terminal
in the County Office Building*

The Board of Commissioners has a set of several goals that they want to see happen for Rutherford County and its operations. Another one was just met by the recent installation of a new Public Information Terminal at the County Office Building at 289 North Main Street. This terminal will be available to the public for navigating the County website, to apply for County jobs, to apply for appointment to a County board or commission and other services as available.



Economic Development

The Executive Director continued work on product development initiatives; prepared and submitted materials for a new recruitment opportunity; followed up on active recruitment projects; and continued work with site and civil engineers on the development of bid documents for the Gateway West Commerce Park development project.

The Project Administrator networked with existing industry via phone calls and email, provided feedback and scheduled visits; conducted an existing industry visit and participated in a 1000 in 100 interview for NC Commerce Workforce; met with Customized Training at ICC to input survey results of 1000 in 100; processed communication from Business Advancement Team meeting and distributed to team members; met with a new business start-up and shared some of the opportunities to work together with local, regional and state allies/programs; talked with Carolina Textile District about collaboration opportunities with Rutherford County textile businesses and those looking for design, production, materials, etc; updated labor information on Rutherford NCEDC.com to latest available statistics; attended TDA Game Changer Event; and researched buildings in the Forest City Industrial Park with property owner.

The Economic Development Assistant received the local match payments for two existing Building Reuse Grants and delivered them to the industries; began preparing and assembling the NC Department of Commerce reimbursement documentation for those 2 grants; forwarded payment and receipt of payment to the contractor who completed work on the Fairground Road Waterline project; began preparing and assembling the IDF reimbursement documentation; submitted a requisition for payment on an existing local incentives grant and researched vendor pricing for various marketing materials.

The Part-Time Economic Development Assistant completed the Gateway West Commerce Park flyer mailing; assisted the Executive Director with the development of presentation materials; and continued work on the available buildings vs. prospect requests project.

Finance

The Director attended several interdepartmental meetings and the Community Grants Committee review meeting. The Director, Assistant Director and Financial Analyst/Project Specialist attended the TDA Board Meeting and Special Event. The Assistant Director continues to sell County surplus items through GovDeals. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week and begun to work on payroll for the upcoming week.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Director responded to a complaint of hazardous materials dumping and an open burning complaint; worked with a radio vendor developing programming templates for the 800MHz radios; participated in rescue training; worked on the Shiloh Danieltown Oakland Fire Department map for a planned substation; performed maintenance on the Children's Fire Safety House in advance of the tour of schools, which begins next week; and attended various meetings.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome new hires Tyler Corey (SW), Alicia Holland (DSS), Pamela Rhom (DSS) and Patrick Wiseman (Sheriff). Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Adena Widener (p/t 911). The Director along with James Kilgo conducted interviews for part time convenience center attendants, conducted interviews along with Angela Ezell for a part time data entry operator at the Senior Center, met with Syndey Brown on the Worker's Compensation audit, attended the HR Association meeting, and met with Robin Lattimore and the County Manager regarding the Library.

Information Technology

The IT department has been working really hard to keep up with your IT needs. In the past two weeks, we have closed 103 track-it orders. Staff provided assistance to DSS as they moved and settled in their new offices. We are gearing up to upgrade the sound system in the Courthouse rooms in the next couple of weeks and had meetings about the new Community Development offices and Board of Elections. Staff had to re-schedule our VoIP upgrade until the October 4th weekend, so you will not see any changes until then, and those will be minimal. IT is deploying the virtual desktops now instead of buying new CPUs. This effort has begun in the Revenue department and is going very well. There are still some locations that will not work very well, so we will still have a few new desktops and laptops, but not near as many as we have had in the past. Always remember to use Track-it for your Maintenance, IT, and VoIP needs by emailing trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov anytime from any location.

Library

The Director

Martha attended a CMC meeting and a meeting about the new Southeastern Library. Quotes are still coming in on furnishings and shelving. Hundreds of books are continuing to be donated for the upcoming book sale next month.

The Children's Librarian

After learning about Forests this week in Story Time, the children in all three libraries had an indoor nature hunt and took home a “forest in a bag.” Outreach was at the Carver Center, and next week’s theme is Forest Animals.

Library IT

April, Kenneth, and Stephanie worked on a grant to purchase new technology equipment for use in community outreach programs.

From the Haynes Branch

The DAR, Griffith Rutherford Chapter, representative (Patsy Willis) came by and took some pictures with the display (below), and donated a book about the constitution (JNF) and a Fiction book about a young girl and how the revolution affected family life.

From the Mountains Branch

Mountains staff spent the week brainstorming ways to create new displays to bring attention to special parts of the collection. We created a center book display and are currently displaying books focused on teaching something specific. Anyone want to learn about...outwitting squirrels, tracking animals of the Appalachians, or mindful parenting? Come see our new display!



Revenue

The Revenue Department handled 36 VTS assists. The office answered 647 phone calls and assisted 282 customers. We completed 4 plat reviews, 2 projects and 3 Data Requests. Appraisers completed 47 building permits and 414 field reviews. A total of 37 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 61 straits, 29 new accounts, 1 merge, 1 split, and 1 acreage adjustment. GIS created 6 new maps. The GIS website had 171,648 hits and 124,641 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 6 new addresses and updated 62 addresses with new owner information. Part time maintenance workers installed 3 new roads signs and completed maintenance on 10 old ones. The PUV program mailed 3 letters, and assisted 11 program members. Staff processed 9 exclusions/deferments. We had 4 refunds, 21 releases and 1 discovery.

Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted AARP's "We Need to Talk" seminar on Tuesday. Mike Martin presented information to help everyone understand when someone's driving may no longer be safe. Many people believe that they lose all of their independence without the car. This may be true to a point, but this program demonstrated how you will not lose independence by using alternative methods of transportation. On Wednesday, we had a new activity called "Medical" Bingo. Dr. Ted E. Bear, the official mascot of Rutherford Regional Health System, came to the Center to help with this fun activity. On Thursday, the seniors participated in "Family Feud". This is an event that the seniors absolutely love! On Friday, we had a special performance by our very own square dancers in the dining room before lunch. Also coming up in October, the Center is co-sponsoring a Candidates Forum with the Rutherford County 4-H Council and United Way Youth Council on October 2nd at 6:00 p.m. All parties for the following offices have been invited to attend: County Commissioners, Clerk of Court, Sheriff, District Attorney, and the North Carolina House of Representatives.

Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office monthly report for August is as follows:

Calls for Service:	4393
Warrants Served/Total Arrest:	139/175
Domestic Calls:	196
Involuntary Commitments/Hours:	40/31.75 Man Hours
Civil Papers Served:	281
Ex Partes Served:	27
Evictions:	16
Animals Pick Up/Surrender:	239
Animals Returned to Owners or Rescued:	122
Animal Control Calls for Service:	142
New Cases Assigned to Detectives/Road Patrol:	127/16
Pill Drop Collections:	2,235 Doses Units/0 ML
Average Daily Inmate Confinement:	210
Gun Purchase Permits:	78
Carry Concealed Permits Issued:	45
Project Lifesaver Clients/Contact Hours:	5/6.0 Man Hours
Registered Sex Offenders/Contact Hours:	179/24 Man Hours

Sheriff's Office *Continued*

Retirement:

Position

Effective: 09-01-2014

J.R. Rodriguez----- Detective

New Part-Time:

Effective: 07-16-2014

Terry Padgett----- Detention

Effective: 07-21-2014

Karen Hudgins----- RN/Detention

Effective: 08-04-2014

Laura Temple----- Animal Control Sec.

Effective: 08-11-2014

Glen Harmon----- Deputy

Effective: 09-11-2014

Andrew Owens----- 911

New Full-Time:

Effective: 09-15-2014

Patrick Wiseman----- Detective

Social Services

The Department of Social Services' hard launch for the Medicaid implementation will be November 3. Staff continue to attend training at the agency and via webinar. The regular monthly supervisory meeting was held this week. On Wednesday, the Director and Social Work Program Manager attended a meeting with Dr. David Sutton, Assistant Superintendent of RCS, along with Olivia Appling, with Smokey Mountain Center, concerning the Rutherford County Care Review Team. This is a problem solving/solution finding resource for agencies in the county, including the school system, working with high risk youth with serious mental health issues, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, and behavioral and/or health concerns, and is primarily used to assist in the development of an appropriate plan for the identified youth. The DSS Leadership Program participates for this year held their monthly meeting on Friday in the Rutherford Center Training Room. This was a half day session where participant presented their service project, which is one of the components of the Leadership Program. Later in the day, a conference call was held with representative from Northwoods Consulting Partners, regarding the case management system for Children's Services programs.

Soil and Water

The Admin/Education Specialist broke down the District display from the Ellenboro Fair; continued work to plan Conservation Field Day; worked on the District Contract paperwork; and worked on Farm City Planning notes and meeting notices. The Ag. Cost Share technician met with 1 landowner on 2 farms, wrote 1 conservation plan, gave technical advice and had 1 contract approved.

Solid Waste

The Solid Waste landfill served 358 customers, hauled 56 containers from convenience centers, shipped 31 loads to Lenoir, sent out two recycling trailers and had 29 tire customers. The landfill staff continues to work on the presentation for NCSWANA in October. The staff continues to perform everyday job duties while continuing to bush hog the central landfill. The shop staff continues to perform preventative maintenance on equipment and trucks. We are close to sending out another electronics trailer. Also textile recycling seems to be increasing.

Active cases 10
Closed cases 3
Convenience center cases 2
Letters written 0
Citations written 0
Community Service reports 1
Community service workers 5

The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is as follows:

As a follow up to our recycling grant we have received permission to perform wiring upgrades and order the compactors. We are still waiting on an amendment to get the concrete work started and order the signs.

Please continue to recycle and remember if any department needs assistance with recycling please call us at 828-287-6125.

Transportation Services

EMS personnel responded to 164 emergency calls and 35 convalescent calls. Staff interviewed applicants for both part time and full time EMTs on Wednesday and Thursday. Staff worked with Rutherford County Schools to resolve several issues and work on protocol for school administration to use during an injury or emergency to request EMS support. Convalescent transports are down slightly due to a reduction in dialysis transports.

Transit drove 10,149 miles, completed 1,151 local trips and 89 out of county trips, transported 251 unduplicated passengers and collected \$16,723 in revenue. Staff has worked to form a steering committee for the 5 year plan that NCDOT is conducting. A public hearing has been set for October 6th for the ROAP application of funding to NCDOT. Director and Operations Manager will attend the NCDOT conference in Raleigh next week, for the Public Transportation Division.

Veteran Services

The Veterans Services Office had 442 mail-ins, 75 facsimiles, 49 mail-outs, 72 telephone contacts, and 181 veteran contacts.

The Director attended the NCACVSO training in Clemmons, NC and received very good information to include a look at the changes that will be happening in the VA system that will change the way the local offices handle business. Approximately 100 service officers attended the week long meeting.

A Mardi Gras themed banquet was held with the attendees arriving in festive attire (see picture of Marie Champion). The event raised approximately \$3,000 for the scholarship fund.



County Commissioners

William Eckler, Chairman
Eddie Holland, Vice Chairman
Greg Lovelace

Julius Owens
Roger Richard

Carl Classen, County Manager
Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board
Richard Williams, County Attorney